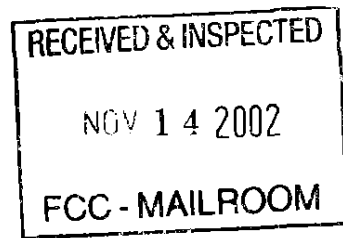




CAROLYN W. DEE  
executive director

DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO

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October 4, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch  
Commission Secretary  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
445 12th Street SW, CY-B402  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Proceeding 02-306

Dear Commissioners

The Downtown Association of San Francisco represents approximately seventy businesses in civic and public issues. While our organization is comprised of all sizes of businesses, our membership is predominately small and independently owned companies. Our mission is to impact the quality of life and business in San Francisco. Recently, it has come to our attention that you are reviewing SBC Pacific Bell's long distance application.


SBC Pacific Bell has long been a preferred provider of local service in this region because of the quality of their service - and we would like the opportunity to be consumers of their long distance service as well. Unfortunately, businesses today in our region are forced to utilize multiple carriers, receive and audit numerous bills and constantly "shop" for service. All of this can be cumbersome, particularly for a small business owner who must fill a myriad of roles.


SBC's ability to offer long distance service will give the members of the Association more choices, better service, savings, and convenience. As business people, we have long recognized the fact that competition is good for the economy and makes for a stronger market that benefits consumers.

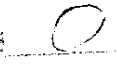
To date, over 141 million Americans are experiencing the benefit of a full, open telecommunications market - and California's businesses want and deserve these benefits too. We are dismayed that the long distance entry process for SBC Pacific Bell has taken so long, when other states have opened the door to long distance competition.

It is now up to the FCC to ensure that California's long distance market is open and competitive. We urge you to vote on SBC Pacific Bell's long distance application and let Californians reap the benefits that consumers in 23 states are already enjoying.

Sincerely,

  
Ave Seftsam  
Chairman of the Board

  
Carolyn Wallace Dee  
Executive Director

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